

An on-site consultant's role:

Encouraging children in Christ

by Terry Sohn, Consultant

What a blessing it is for me to be able to use the talents God gave me to teach and aid others in the ministry of teaching young hearts and minds! But even more important than teaching academic subjects, I want every child to know the love of Christ.

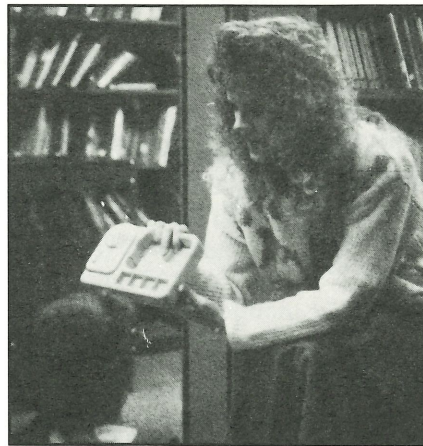
As an on-site teaching consultant at Trinity Lutheran School in Lansing, Ill., I work with students whose talents and abilities are often masked by learning differences.

The administrators and teaching staff at Trinity earnestly try to keep students in the regular classroom setting whenever possible.

Often, this goal is accomplished simply by discussion between me and a teacher. The classroom teacher knows the most about a particular student in need and supplies valuable information as we work cooperatively to help each student.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thess. 5:11).

As a consultant, I often research specific areas of learning differences, whether it be distractibility, organizational skills or whatever situation may arise. Research is then followed by suggested teaching strategies and ongoing communication with the teacher. Together we keep a watchful eye on the student's progress, always critiquing our



Terry Sohn, an On-Site Consultant serving Trinity, Lansing, Ill., as she "encourages a child in Christ."

strategies for the most positive and successful results.

On occasion, my work allows me to be involved in one-on-one or small group interaction with students. Whether it be classroom observation, providing enrichment exercises or meeting with reading groups, the desired outcome is to progress a student's ability so he or she may remain in their respective classroom with their peers.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries supports my work and opens a library of workbooks, headphones and other educational materials for me to use with the students at Trinity.

We are also fortunate to be working with "Educational Tape Recording for the Blind" in an effort to keep a fifth grade student working at his grade level. The student listens to tapes made by volunteers. These tapes make it easier for him to understand work that is beyond his reading level.

I am most encouraged by the teamwork I experience with the faculty at Trinity. Often a classroom teacher simply needs to vent frustration or needs someone to listen and reassure them that they are doing everything in their power to help their students.

The on-site consultant ministry is young and only now being explored by individual teachers and willing schools. My role is changing and evolving to meet the needs of those around me. Together with the staff at Trinity, we exchange objective facts and share some of the subjective feelings that encompass the role of a Lutheran teacher.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thess. 5:11).

On-Site Consultants

In Michigan:

- Gail Vahlbusch serves St. Matthew, Westland; East Bethlehem, Detroit; Mount Hope, Allen Park; and Calvary, Lincoln Park.

In Illinois:

- Inez Petersen serves Immanuel, Palatine.
- Terry Sohn serves Trinity, Lansing.
- Dawn Thomas serves St. Paul, Woodworth.
- Audrey James serves Prince of Peace, Chicago, and St. James, Chicago.



LUTHERAN Special Education MINISTRIES

FOUNDED 1873 • Formerly Lutheran School for the Deaf •
6861 East Nevada, Detroit, Michigan 48234 • (313) 368-1220

What's new for '92?

"Downsizing" seems to be the most popular word of the year. I hear it on the news. I read it in the paper. It's used in business, government and education. I've even heard it in the congregations. Times are tough, organizations are struggling, and they downsize. They cut staff, and as a result, reduce services. Lutheran Special Education Ministries is faced with the same issues, the same challenges.

Given the fact that we have limited financial resources, we asked this question: "How can we do the best we can with what we have and still keep a clear focus on our mission to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education?" As a creative response to the challenge confronting us, Lutheran Special Education Ministries established On-site Consultation as a way to impact the lives of even more children. For those schools interested in forming a partnership with us, we provide a consultant a half day per week. As a partner, the Lutheran school receives:

- instructional/curricular consultation with teachers regarding children with special learning needs
- consultation with parents
- teacher inservice workshops regarding special needs children
- team teaching opportunities
- student evaluation services
- limited consultant work directly with children
- access to Lutheran Special Education Ministries resource materials
- access to Lutheran Special Education Ministries staff and inservice meetings

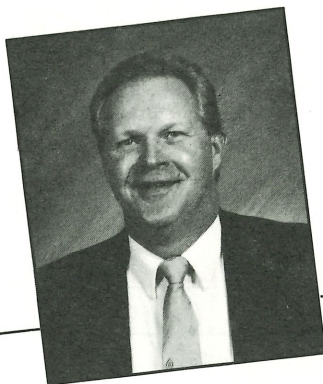
Nine schools in Michigan and Illinois responded to our offer. As a result, even with overall "downsizing," we are now serving more children directly and indirectly than ever before in our history. As of January 1, we have provided service on behalf of 654 children, and we still have five months to go before the end of the school year.

Isn't it amazing how apparent negatives can be turned into new opportunities? As I think about it, perhaps it's not so surprising after all, for is there really anything we can't handle with His help? Take some time to think about it.

Serving His special needs children,

Roger DeMeyere
Executive Director

"Enabling children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education."



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A special word of thanks from one of our students to you!

Thank you for all you did for us Dad love you.

Galatians 5:14 The whole law is Made complete

*is this one command: "love your
neighbor as you love yourself!"*

Yolandream. & carol



What's a charitable gift annuity . . . and how can it help our ministry?

Today, many individuals can make what's called a "charitable gift annuity"—a planned gift that benefits some charitable organization upon that individual's death. In addition, the donor receives a quarterly income check for the rest of his or her life.

In the year the gift is made, the donor also receives an income tax deduction. The interest earned in the plan is also sheltered until it is paid out.

The charitable organization guarantees—for the donor's entire life—the amount of the quarterly income payment that was agreed to when the plans were made. For example:

Name of annuitant: Mark Brower, 76
Amount of funds transferred to a

charitable gift annuity: \$7,000

Date transferred: January 1992

**Quarterly income to donor for his
lifetime:** \$152.25

***Charitable contribution:** \$3,260.62

Interest rate: 8.7 percent

** Donor may deduct this contribution up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income. If all donor's contributions that qualify exceed 50 percent of his or her adjusted gross income, he may deduct the excess over the five following years until exhausted.*

If you have a question about a charitable gift annuity, please fill out and mail the coupon below or contact the development office: (313) 368-1220.

Special thanks to Lutheran insurance companies

by Susan Lewis, Resource Teacher

Lutheran Special Education Ministries mission is to enable special needs students to receive a Christian education. Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves Lutheran schools in Illinois, Michigan and New York by sending out evaluators, consultants and resource room teachers.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries recently received a scholarship grant for \$375 from Lutheran Brotherhood NW Metro Branch 8026. This grant will enable three students from low-income families to receive much needed specialized services.

Another grant from Lutheran Brotherhood Oakland Livingston County Branch 8043 matched the receipts of our 1991 Harvest Festival for \$5,198.

Lutheran Fraternities of America gave a \$1,600 gift for the cost of a new poster promoting our ministry plus another gift for operational support.

Aid Association for Lutherans provided a \$2,500 grant for scholarships to disadvantaged students.

These gifts from Lutheran insurance companies enable us to help more children.

Yes, please send more information about Charitable Gift Annuities:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Mail to:

**Lutheran Special Education Ministries
6861 E. Nevada
Detroit, MI 48234**

Call for nominations:

Annual Ephphatha Award nominations are being accepted

The Board of Directors of Lutheran Special Education Ministries established the Ephphatha Award to recognize the many dedicated people throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who have given time and talent to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education.

The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Christian education of special needs children in his or her congregation, community or the church-at-large.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is committed to opening the doors of Christian education to all children. This commitment is reflected in our Statement of Ministry:

“With the knowledge of God’s love and the desire that God’s love be revealed through our ministry, Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education.”

To accomplish this, Lutheran Special Education Ministries has a continuum of special education programs and services, including a special education day school; resource rooms in Lutheran schools in Michigan, New York and Illinois; and evaluation and consultation services. To God alone be the glory.

Lutheran Special Education Minis-

tries wants to acknowledge the time and talents of individuals who are also committed to ministry to special needs children by presenting the Ephphatha Award. It is our prayer that others will then be moved to work on behalf of these special children.

Nominations accompanied by a record of service should be made by March 30, 1992, and directed to:

Mr. Roger DeMeyere
Executive Director
Lutheran Special Education Ministries
6861 E. Nevada
Detroit, MI 48234

Statement of Ministry

With the knowledge of God’s love and desire that God’s love be revealed through our ministry, Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education.

Can you help?

I. Needs for math program:

\$30.....Tactilo

Consists of 25 shape and picture cards. Used to develop tactile sense, concentration, visual memory and comparison skills.

\$225...Manipulative Lab for Math Their Way

We already use this math approach for our students. The hands-on lab helps develop abstract math concepts through counting, comparing, sorting and grouping the objects in the kit.

\$40.....Math Their Way Resource Guide and Activities

Goes with the lab kit.

\$80.....Hands-on Math for the Overhead Projector

Allows teacher to demonstrate to the entire class.

\$85.....Texas Instruments Classroom Calculator Kit

Basic calculators for beginners, color-coded and solar powered.

II. Needs for drama and art program:

.....Ready made puppets

\$30.....Puppet Kit

Students make their own puppets from materials in the kit. Can adapt materials to suit the play.

\$50.....Paint drying rack and clips

Used to hang paintings to dry.

If you can help with any of these items, please contact the Development Office at Lutheran Special Education Ministries.

The Advocate

for Students with Special Learning Needs

Second Class
POSTAGE
PAID
Detroit, MI

The ADVOCATE for Students with Special Learning Needs
—USPS 150-480
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